

Virginia Board of Education  
Student Advisory Committee  
Minutes: December 12, 2006

Students in Attendance:

Katlyn Allen, James River High School; Adam Baker, Tabb High School; Brian Bills, Charlottesville High School; Rachel Chitwood, Pulaski County High School; Emma Horton, West Point High School; Jeremy Jones, Bailey Bridge Middle School; Paula Lewis, Lynnhaven Middle School; Justin Scott, Franklin County High School; Shelton Seaborn, Jr., Greensville County High School; Anna Skubel, George Washington Middle School; Monique Sturdivant, T.C. Williams High School; and Kenzie VanDerwerker, Bedford Middle School.

Department of Education Staff in Attendance:

Michelle Vucci, Michelle Parker, Melissa Velazquez

Virginia Board of Education Members in Attendance:

Eleanor Saslaw

Mrs. Saslaw welcomed the 12 new members of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) and paired the students up to introduce each other to the group. The SAC is composed of eight high school students representing each superintendent's region, and four middle school students, selected at large.

Department of Education staff reviewed the SAC notebook, a copy of which was given to each student, and other administrative matters with the committee members. Mrs. Saslaw explained the role and mission of the committee, expectations for the work of the committee and a review of the eight objectives in the Board of Education's Comprehensive Plan for 2005-2010.

The SAC committee members were divided into three groups of four students. Each group was directed to identify two topics or issues that they felt the Board of Education may want to address. Each group was informed that after the group identified two issues those issues would be presented to the entire SAC for consideration. The SAC would then pick one issue from each group as the policy areas the SAC would research and present to the Board of Education for action.

The groups chose the following issues:

Group 1 chose the implementation of foreign language and cultural awareness and designating a statewide day for club promotion to promote unity in each school. Group 2 chose the improvement of drug awareness/prevention in grades seven through 12 and the

encouragement of tolerance in the schools through more counseling programs, groups and seminars. Group 3 chose closing the achievement gap and school sports and physical education.

Representatives of each group presented the groups' two issues with explanations to the full committee. After lengthy discussion that revealed a great deal of interest in all of the issues, the entire committee determined the three top issues from the six presented. The issues chosen were the implementation of foreign language and cultural awareness, drug awareness/prevention, and closing the achievement gap. Plans were made to incorporate some of the ideas from the issues that were not chosen into the three selected issues.

Each group identified the work that needed to be done on its issue and made assignments for the February meeting. Groups will work on and research their issues, and communicate to each other via e-mail prior to the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27-28, 2007.